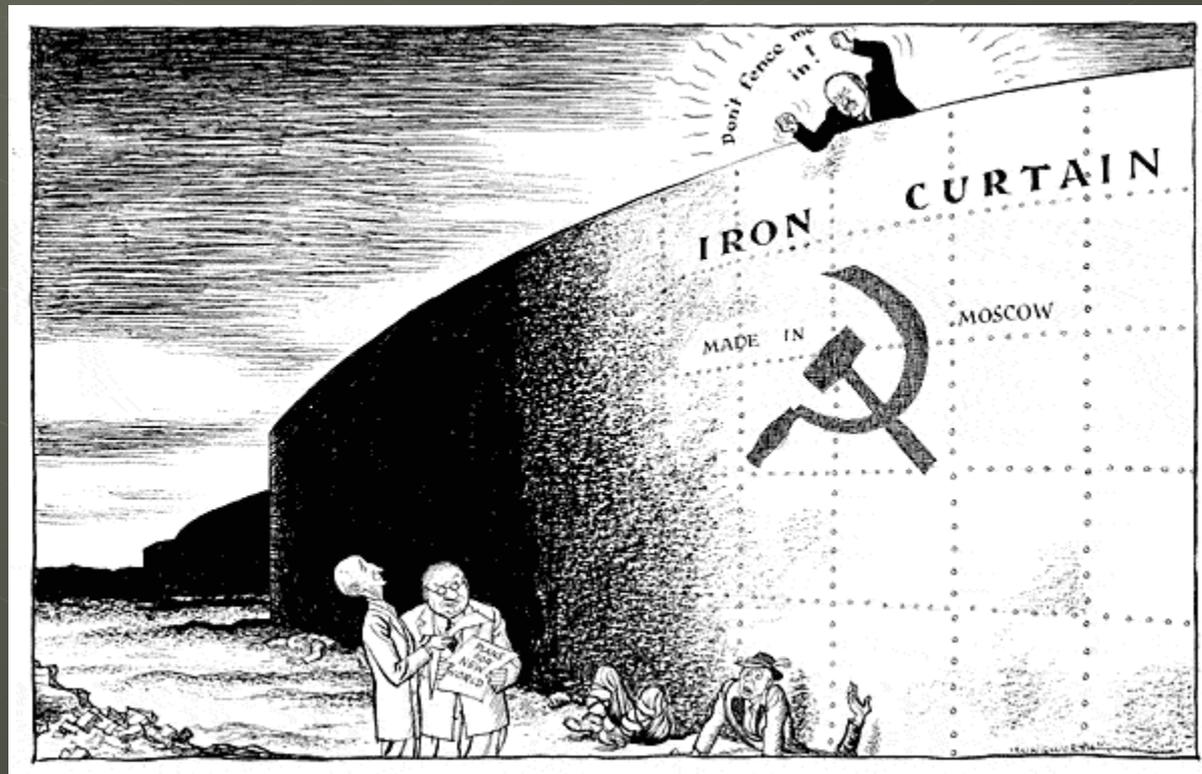


# Aftermath of WWII: The Iron Curtain/Cold War



# Essential Question

● How did WWII change Europe?



# U.S.S.R.

- After the death of Vladimir Lenin, the Soviet Union's new communist leader was Joseph Stalin.
- Stalin and the Soviets fought alongside the Allies in WWII.



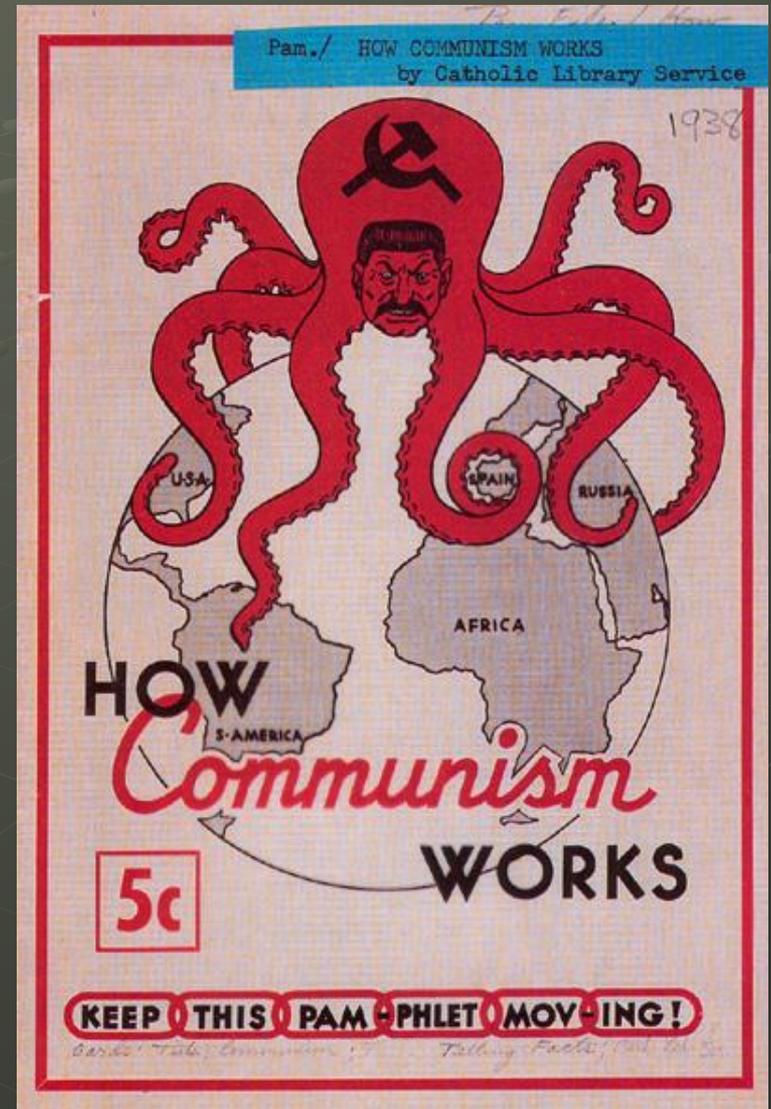
# U.S.S.R

- However, after WWII Stalin no longer trusted the U.S. or Great Britain.
  - He felt that the U.S. and Great Britain had deliberately let Germany invade Russia, and then purposely taken their time in giving their aid.
  - Stalin Believed they were trying to make the Soviet Union weaker.



# Communism

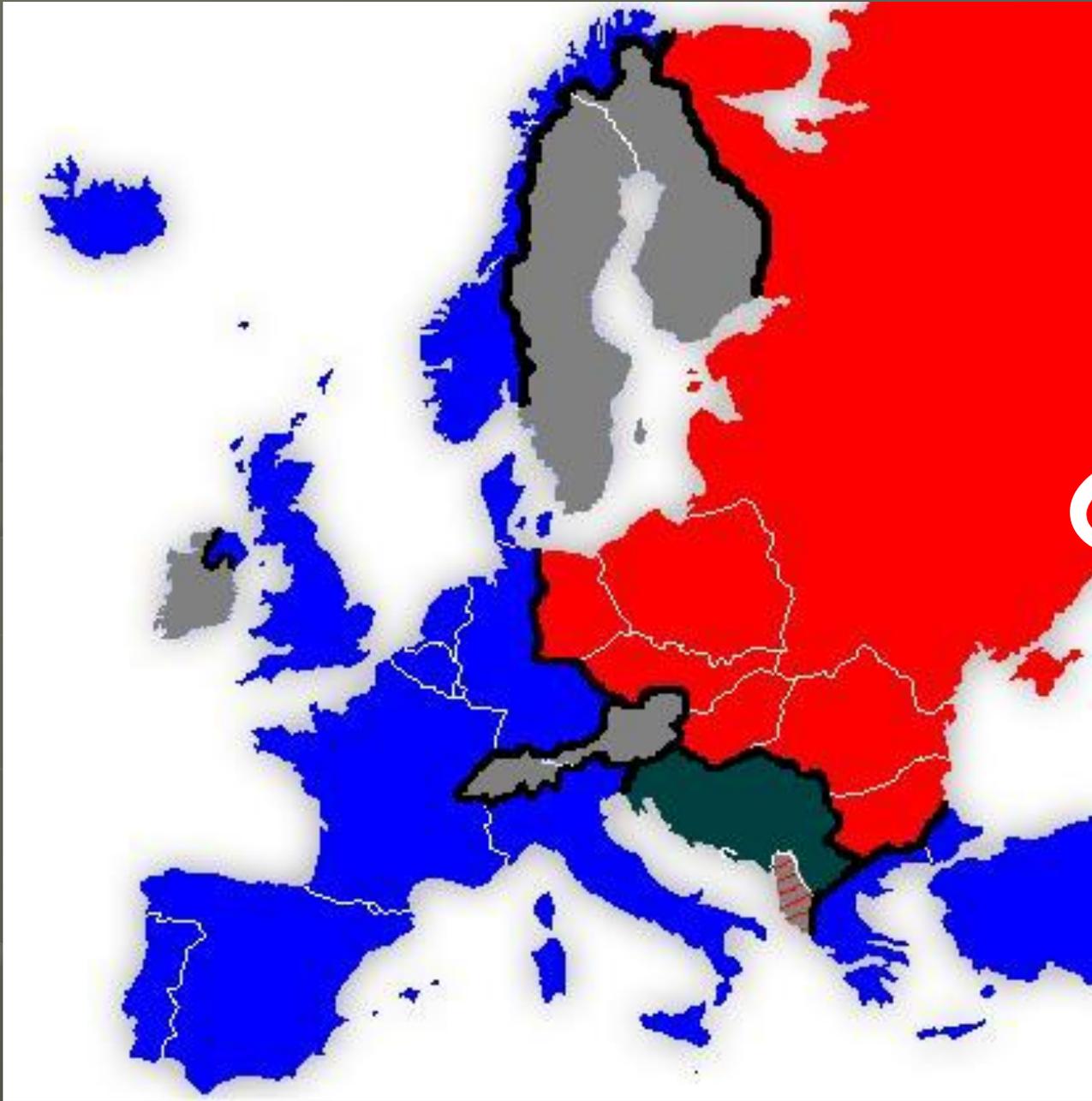
- The U.S. and Great Britain were afraid Stalin was going to try to spread Communism all over Europe.
  - Stalin was more like a dictator than Lenin had been.
  - Stalin was more militant.



# The Iron Curtain

- After WWII ended, the U.S., Great Britain and France controlled Western Europe and the Western portion of Germany
  - They set up Democratic governments.
- The Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe and Eastern Germany
  - They set up Communist governments loyal to the U.S.S.R.
  - France, Great Britain, and USA agreed to unite Germany and give up control of their portion of the land.

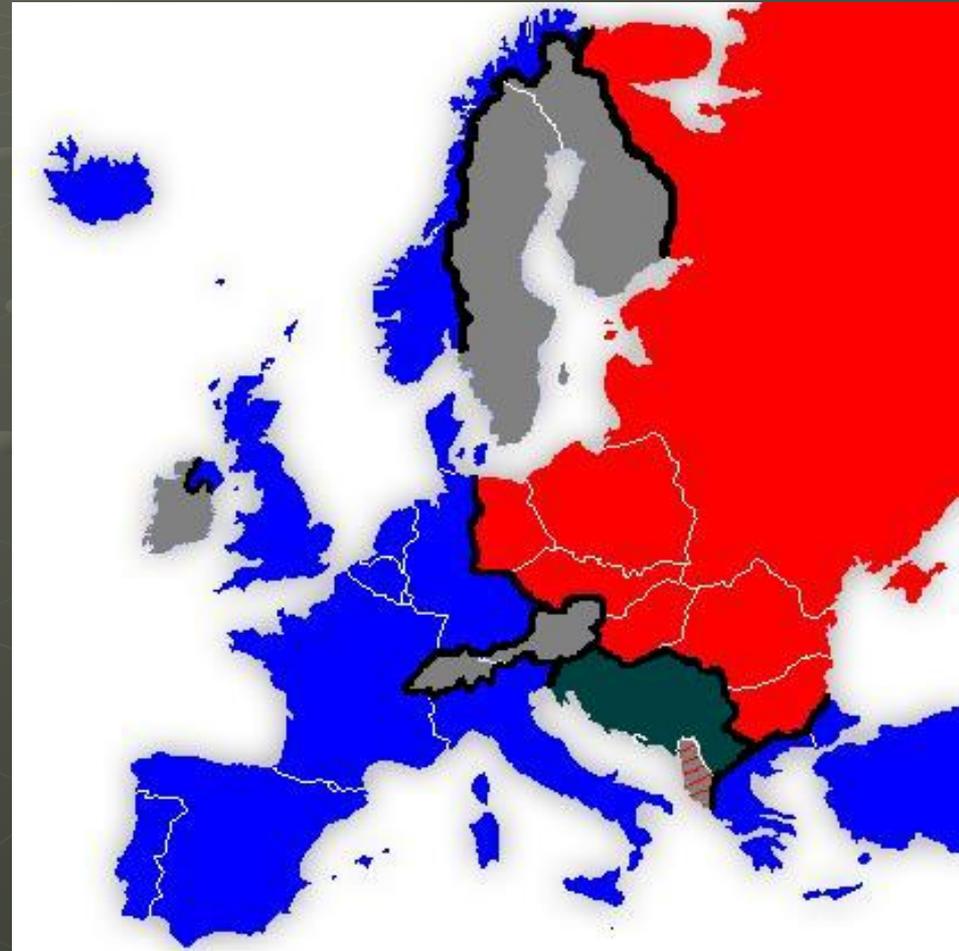




The  
Iron  
Curtain

# The Iron Curtain

- The imaginary line that separated Communist Eastern Europe from Democratic Western Europe was called the **Iron Curtain**.
- Both sides feared one another.
- Each side began preparing for another war.



# The Berlin Wall

- The city of Berlin in Germany was in the Eastern part of Germany.
- Instead of giving the whole city to the Soviet Union, the city was split in two.
  - One side was Democratic, the other side was Communist.



# The Berlin Wall

- People kept fleeing East Berlin to be in West Berlin, so the Communists built a wall to keep people from going there.
- This was the Berlin Wall.

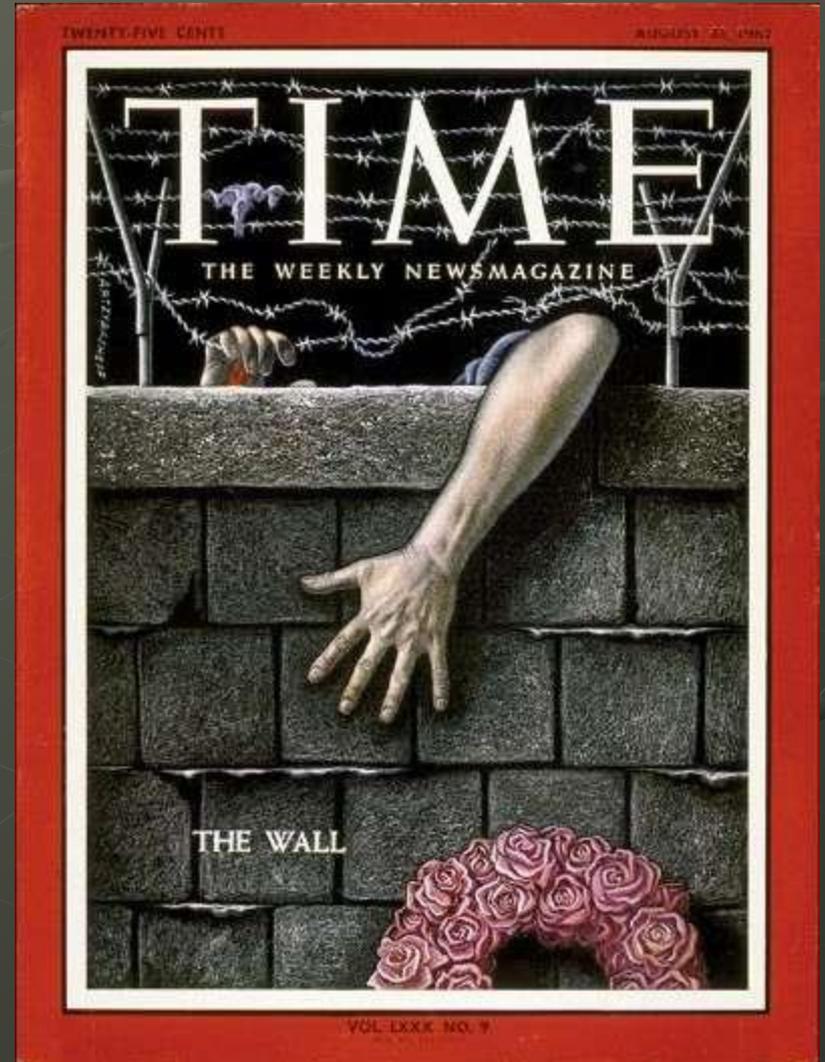




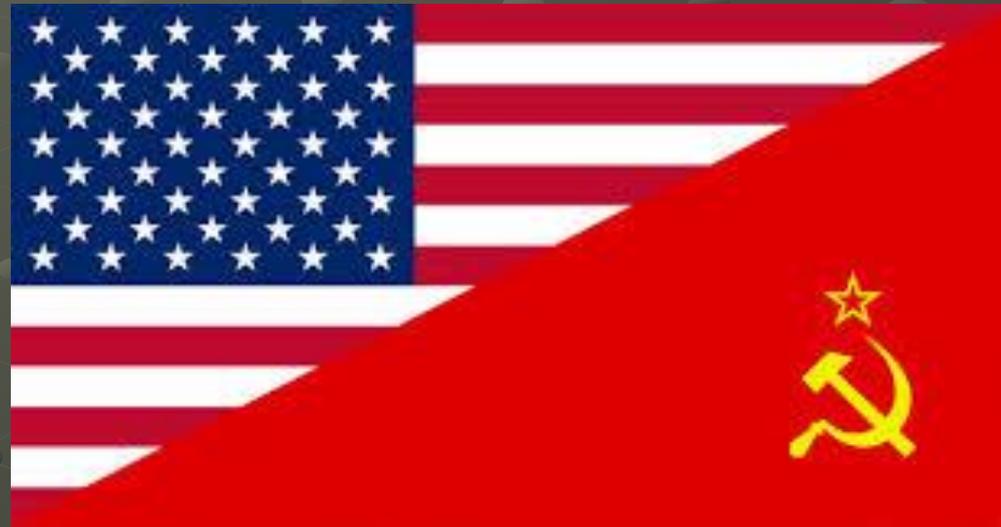
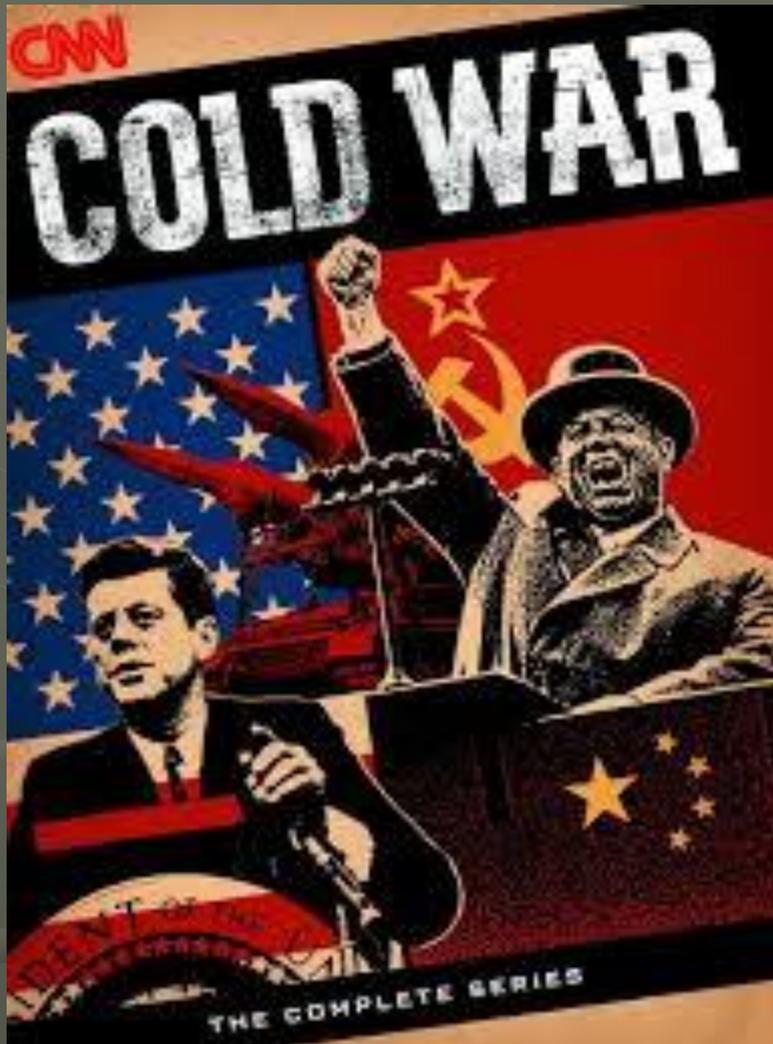
1961 – Berlin Wall Built



What did the Berlin Wall symbolize?



# The Cold War



# It's Cold Out There

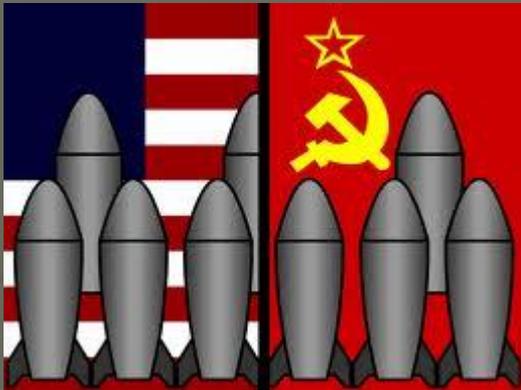
- The Cold War was a period of distrust and misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and its former allies in the West, particularly the United States. The Soviet Union was a communist country that believed a powerful central government should control the economy as well as the government. This idea was very different from the democracy and capitalism



People worried that if such a war happened, it would be a nuclear war. Such a war would be a disaster for everyone on the earth. Countries formed new alliances to protect themselves. In 1949, the Western European countries plus the United States and Canada formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The eastern countries signed the Warsaw Pact.



- Each side thought the other was trying to rule the world
- Neither side would give up, people lived in fear that another world war would erupt
- This time it could be a nuclear war, which could destroy the entire planet
- Countries began to form alliances to protect themselves...



# Arms Race

- An arms race denotes a rapid increase in the quantity or quality of instruments of military power by rival states in peacetime. The buildup of arms was also a characteristic of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
- The nuclear arms race was central to the Cold War. Many feared where the Cold War was going with the belief that the more nuclear weapons you had, the more powerful you were. Both America and USSR (Soviet Union) massively built up their stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

# Cold War Video

● <http://junior.scholastic.com/Video-Archive>

# The End of the Cold War



# Speech

● <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjWDrTXMqF8>



- The fall of the Berlin Wall happened nearly as suddenly as its rise. There had been signs that the Communist bloc was weakening, but the East German Communist leaders insisted that East Germany just needed a moderate change rather than a drastic revolution. East German citizens did not agree.
- As Communism began to falter in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia in 1988 and 1989, new exodus points were opened to East Germans who wanted to flee to the West.

# Berlin Wall Falls... Germany

- People were in shock. Were the borders really open? East Germans tentatively approached the border and indeed found that the border guards were letting people cross. Very quickly, the Berlin Wall was inundated with people from both sides. Some began chipping at the Berlin Wall with hammers and chisels. There was an impromptu huge celebration along the Berlin Wall, with people hugging, kissing, singing, cheering, and crying.
- The Berlin Wall was eventually chipped away, into smaller pieces (some the size of a coin and others in big slabs). The pieces have become collectibles and are stored in both homes and museums.
- After the Berlin Wall came down, East and West Germany reunified into a single German state on October 3, 1990.